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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of
WATANABE et al.Notice of Allowance
Mailed: 07/08/2004

Application No.: 09/853,038

Confirmation No.: 5084

Filed: May 11, 2001

Art Unit: 3679

For: TRIPOD CONSTANT VELOCITY
UNIVERSAL JOINT

Docket No.: 100725-00040

**REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
CONSIDERATION OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION****Mail Stop: Issue Fee**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: July 20, 2004

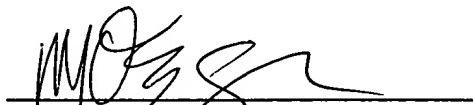
Sir:

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on April 22, 2004. Applicants have not yet received a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed by the Examiner to acknowledge the cited disclosed information was considered by the Examiner.

The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the subject Form PTO-1449. For the convenience of the Examiner, copies of IDS and PTO form 1449 are attached, together with a copy of the PTO date-stamped postcard evidencing receipt of the IDS on April 22, 2004.

Should there be any questions concerning this communication, please telephone the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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MO:elp

Enclosures: IDS w/ Form 1449 dated April 22, 2004
Copy of date-stamped PTO postcard
252542_1.DOC



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Confirmation No.: 5084

Yukihiro WATANABE et al.

Attorney Docket No: 100725-00040

Serial Number: 09/853,038

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filed: May 11, 2001

Examiner: Gregory John Binda

For: TRIPOD CONSTANT VELOCITY UNIVERSAL JOINT

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Director of the U.S. PTO
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: April 22, 2004

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the information item(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each item(s) is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the item(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application, OR (c) accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. No certification or fee is required.
- 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
- a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).

- c. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the petition fee under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1). Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.
- a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(2).
- 4. The references were cited in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action mailed April 16, 2004 is attached for the Examiner's information.

Respectfully submitted,



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MO/elp
Enclosures: Japanese Office Action mailed 4/16/2004
PTO Form 1449 w/3 references
237112_1.DOC



Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

100725-00040

SERIAL NO.

09/853,038

APPLICANT

WATANABE et al.

FILING DATE

May 11, 2001

GROUP

3679

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
AA						
AB						
AC						
AD						
AE						
AF						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	YES	NO	PART.
AG	11-210776	08/03/1999	JP				X		
AH	60-53220	03/26/1985	JP					X	
AI	2001-32850	02/06/2001	JP					X	
AJ									
AK									
AL									

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AM	
AN	
AO	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Attorney Docket No. 100725-00040
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/853,038
Filed: May 11, 2001
Applicants: WATANABE et al.
Papers filed herewith on: April 22, 2004
A Check in the amount of: \$



The following papers are attached:
Information Disclosure Statement; PTO 1449; JP Office Action mailed
4/16/2004; 3 references

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS

MO/elp

Due Date: 7/16/2004

juie